**Topic:** LGBTQ+ rights

**Specific question:** What progress has been made in the acceptance of same-sex marriage?

**Title/full question:** An investigation into rights for the LGBTQ+ community: Has progress has been made in the acceptance of same-sex marriage over the last fifty years, and what challenges lie ahead?

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#1 EasyBib Cited Source: [LGBT Rights Milestones Fast Facts](https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/19/us/lgbt-rights-milestones-fast-facts/index.html)

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| Issue: Discrimination against the LGBT  Statement of Inquiry: Discrimination against the LGBT is not something new. | Evidence/Notes: Dec 15 1973 homosexuality removed from APA’s list of mental disorders. 1974 Kathy Kozachenko and Elaine Noble are the first openly LGBT officials elected into office. March 2 1982 Wisconsin outlaws discrimination against the LGBT. The Hate Crimes Sentencing Act goes into effect in 1995 and includes sexual orientation. Dec 3 1996 Hawaii becomes the first state to recognize same-sex marriage. June 26 2015 supreme court rules that states cannot ban same sex marriage. |
| Struggles: Homosexuals not having equal rights and discrimination against the LGBT. | Changes: Societies views of homosexuals becomes more positive. |

#2 EasyBib Cited Source: [Changing Attitudes on Gay Marriage](http://www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/changing-attitudes-on-gay-marriage/)

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| Issue: People not accepting same-sex marriage.  Statement of Inquiry: More people than ever support same-sex marriage. | Evidence/Notes: 62% of US adults support gay marriage. Younger generations show more support. Support from religious is groups is higher than ever. Democrats, republicans, and independents show higher support than ever. Both sexes show higher support than ever. Most groups ranged between 40 and 60 percent approval. |
| Struggles: People, specifically elders and some religious groups not accepting same-sex marriage. | Changes: Same-sex marriage has a higher acceptance rate than ever. |

#3 EasyBib Cited Source: [Supreme Court Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage](https://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/27/us/supreme-court-same-sex-marriage.html)

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| Issue: Same-sex marriage not being legal.  Statement of Inquiry: The supreme court ruled that same-sex marriage was legal. | Evidence/Notes: The supreme court ruled that same-sex marriage is legal in US in a vote of 5-4. This was ruled on June 26th of 2015. Before the ruling 13 states still banned same-sex marriage. |
| Struggles:Homosexual couples not being able to marry. | Changes: Same-sex couple can marry each other in the US. |

Works Cited

“LGBT Rights Milestones Fast Facts.” *CNN*, Cable News Network, 19 Dec. 2017, www.cnn.com/2015/06/19/us/lgbt-rights-milestones-fast-facts/index.html.

Liptak, Adam. “Supreme Court Ruling Makes Same-Sex Marriage a Right Nationwide.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 26 June 2015, www.nytimes.com/2015/06/27/us/supreme-court-same-sex-marriage.html.

Mitchell, Travis. “Changing Attitudes on Gay Marriage.” *Pew Research Center's Religion &amp; Public Life Project*, 26 June 2017, [www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/changing-attitudes-on-gay-marriage/](http://www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/changing-attitudes-on-gay-marriage/).

**An investigation into rights for the LGBTQ+ community: Has progress has been made in the acceptance of same-sex marriage over the last fifty years, and what challenges lie ahead?**

Has there been progress made in the acceptance of same-sex marriage over the last fifty years, and what challenges still lie ahead? There has been major progress in the acceptance of same-sex marriage over the years. There has been many events that have shown an increased support for same-sex marriage. The statistics show that many people support same-sex marriage, but there are still challenges that must be faced.

Lots of events have happened that have shown the increased support for same-sex marriage. Some events that show an increased support for same-sex marriage are The Hate Crimes Sentencing Act including sexual orientation, Hawaii recognizing same-sex marriage in 1996;making Hawaii the first state to recognize same-sex marriage, and the supreme court ruling in 2015 making same-sex marriage legal in all of the US. These are all events that show that support for same-sex marriage has greatly increased.

The statistics show that people of all groups have shown a huge increase in support for same-sex marriage since 2001. In 2001 the amount of US adults that favored same-sex marriage was only 35%, while in 2017 the amount of US adults that favored same-sex marriage jumped to 62%. Statistics also show that the younger the generation the more likely they are to support same-sex marriage, with millennials (1981 or later) showing the highest percentage of support at 71%, and the silent generation (1928-1945) showing the lowest percentage of support but still the highest for the generation at 41%. The statistics also show that people of all religious groups and people who do not affiliate with a religion show a higher support for same-sex marriage than ever. Support for same-sex marriage is at an all time high within all groups of people, but there is still a lot people who oppose same-sex marriage.

Even with all of these events and the majority of people supporting same-sex marriage, lots of people still oppose same-sex marriage. 38% of US adults still oppose same-sex marriage. Specific groups of people are also more prone to oppose same-sex marriage. Of people who are a part of the silent generation 59% oppose same-sex marriage. White Evangelical Protestants and Black Protestants show a high opposal rate at 65% and 56%. Adults who identify as republican show a high opposal rate 60% opposing same-sex marriage, and 40% supporting same-sex marriage. So even with the majority of people supporting same-sex marriage there is still a lot of people who oppose it.

Major progress has been made over the years in the support for same-sex marriage. There has been many events over years that have shown the increasing support for same-sex marriage. The data shows that people of all groups have show an increased support for same-sex marriage. It is clear to see that lots of people support same-sex, there are still a large number of people who oppose same-sex marriage though. It is important that people continue to support same-sex marriage and defend it.